

North Levantine Arabic

<https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>

October 8, 2020

Cite as

Himmelreich, Anke, Katharina Hartmann, Melissa Jeckel, and Peter W. Smith (2020): Agreement Resolution in Coordination Structures in the World's Languages. Ms., Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main (url: <https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>)

Contents

1	Overview	2
2	Patterns for gender	2
2.1	Coordination with “and”	2
2.1.1	SV order	2
2.1.2	VS order	2
2.2	Coordination with “or”	3
2.2.1	SV order	3
2.2.2	VS order	3
3	Patterns for number	3
3.1	Coordination with “and”	3
3.1.1	SV order	3
3.1.2	VS order	4
3.2	Coordination with “or”	4
3.2.1	SV order	4
3.2.2	VS order	5
4	Patterns for person	5
4.1	Coordination with “and”	5
4.1.1	SV order	5
4.1.2	VS order	6
4.2	Coordination with “or”	7
4.2.1	SV order	7
4.2.2	VS order	7

1 Overview

Language family:	Afro-Asiatic (Semitic)
Countries:	Lebanon, Syria, Turkey
Number of speakers:	24.6 million
Agreement features:	gender, number, person
Attested word orders:	SV, VS
Coordination types:	and, or

(The data were elicited with a native speaker from Syria.¹)

2 Patterns for gender

2.1 Coordination with “and”

2.1.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

- (1) a. el-rrijal w el-marra ʕam y-erkud-u
the-man and the-woman PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
‘The man and the woman are running.’
b. el-marra w el-rrijal ʕam y-erkud-u
the-woman and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
‘The woman and the man are running.’

2.1.2 VS order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

- (2) a. ʕam y-erkud-u el-rrijal w el-marra
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-man and the-woman
‘The man and the woman are running.’

¹Thanks to Aya Al-Ghanem for her help.

- b. ʕam y-erkud-u el-marra w el-rrijal
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-woman and the-man
 'The woman and the man are running.'

2.2 Coordination with “or”

2.2.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

- (3) a. el-rrijal ?aw el-marra ʕam y-erkud-u
 the-man or the-woman PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
 'The man or the woman are running.'
- b. el-marra ?aw el-rrijal ʕam y-erkud-u
 the-woman or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
 'The woman or the man are running.'

2.2.2 VS order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

- (4) a. ʕam y-erkud-u el-rrijal ?aw el-marra
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-man or the-woman
 'The man or the woman are running.'
- b. ʕam y-erkud-u el-marra ?aw el-rrijal
 PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-woman or the-man
 'The woman or the man are running.'

3 Patterns for number

3.1 Coordination with “and”

3.1.1 SV order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking on the verb is fine, while singular marking is highly marked. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/??sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (5) el-ssabi w el-rrijal ʔam y-erkud-u/??y-erkud
the-boy and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run
'The boy and the man are running.'
- (6) a. el-ssabi w el-rrijaal ʔam y-erkud-u
the-boy and the-men PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
'The boy and the men are running.'
- b. el-sseby-an w el-rrijal ʔam y-erkud-u
the-boy-PL and the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
'The boys and the man are running.'

3.1.2 VS order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking or singular marking on the verb is fine. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (7) ʔam y-erkud-u/??y-erkud el-ssabi w el-rrijal
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run the-boy and the-man
'The boy and the man are running.'
- (8) a. ʔam y-erkud-u el-ssabi w el-rrijaal
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy and the-men
'The boy and the men are running.'
- b. ʔam y-erkud-u el-sseby-an w el-rrijal
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy-PL and the-man
'The boys and the man are running.'

3.2 Coordination with “or”

3.2.1 SV order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking on the verb is fine, while singular marking is highly marked. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/??sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (9) el-ssabi ?aw el-rrijal ?am y-erkud-u/??y-erkud
the-boy or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run
'The boy or the man are running.'
- (10) a. el-ssabi ?aw el-rrijaal ?am y-erkud-u
the-boy or the-men PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
'The boy or the men are running.'
- b. el-sseby-an ?aw el-rrijal ?am y-erkud-u
the-boy-PL or the-man PROG 3.MASC-run-PL
'The boys or the man are running.'

3.2.2 VS order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking or singular marking on the verb is fine. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (11) ?am y-erkud-u/??y-erkud el-ssabi ?aw el-rrijal
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL/3.MASC-run the-boy or the-man
'The boy or the man are running.'
- (12) a. ?am y-erkud-u el-ssabi ?aw el-rrijaal
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy or the-men
'The boy or the men are running.'
- b. ?am y-erkud-u el-sseby-an ?aw el-rrijal
PROG 3.MASC-run-PL the-boy-PL or the-man
'The boys or the man are running.'

4 Patterns for person

4.1 Coordination with "and"

4.1.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatching person is resolved following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3. (Number is resolved to plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	1pl		2pl/??2sg
3	1pl	2pl	

Examples:

- (13) a. ?ana w ?nta ?am n-erkud
I and you.MASC PROG 1PL-run
'I and you are running.'
- b. ?nta w ?ana ?am n-erkud
you.MASC and I PROG 1PL-run
'You and I are running.'
- c. ?ana w huwe ?am n-erkud
I and he PROG 1PL-run
'I and he are running.'
- d. huwe w ?ana ?am n-erkud
he and I PROG 1PL-run
'He and I are running.'
- e. ?nta w huwe ?am t-erkud-u/??t-erkud
you.MASC and he PROG 2.MASC-run-PL/2.MASC-run
'You and he are running.'
- f. huwe w ?nta ?am t-erkud-u
he and you.MASC PROG 2.MASC-run-PL
'He and you are running.'

4.1.2 VS order

Pattern: Both closest conjunct agreement and resolved agreement (following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3) are possible.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	1pl/2sg		2sg
3	1pl/3sg	2sg/3sg	

Examples:

- (14) a. ?am n-erkud ?ana w ?nta
PROG 1PL-run I and you.MASC
'I and you are running.'
- b. ?am n-erkud/t-erkud ?nta w ?ana
PROG 1PL-run/2.MASC-run you and I
'You and I are running.'
- c. ?am n-erkud ?ana w huwe
PROG 1PL-run I and he
'I and he are running.'
- d. ?am n-erkud/y-erkud huwe w ?ana
PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run he and I
'He and I are running.'
- e. ?am t-erkud ?nta w huwe
PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC and he
'You and he are running.'
- f. ?am t-erkud/y-erkud huwe w ?nta
PROG 2.MASC-run/3.MASC-run he and you.MASC
'He and you are running.'

4.2 Coordination with “or”

4.2.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatching person is resolved following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3. (Number is resolved to plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl/??2sg	1pl/??3sg
2	1pl		2pl/??2sg
3	1pl	2pl/2sg	

Examples:

- (15) a. ?ana ?aw ?nta ?am n-erkud/??t-erkud
I or you.MASC PROG 1PL-run/2.MASC-run
‘I or you are running.’
- b. ?nta ?aw ?ana ?am n-erkud
you.MASC or I PROG 1PL-run
‘You or I are running.’
- c. ?ana ?aw huwe ?am n-erkud/y-erkud
I or he PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run
‘I or he are running.’
- d. huwe ?aw ?ana ?am n-erkud
he or I PROG 1PL-run
‘He or I are running.’
- e. ?nta ?aw huwe ?am t-erkud-u/t-erkud
you.MASC or he PROG 2.MASC-run-PL/2.MASC-run
‘You or he are running.’
- f. huwe ?aw ?nta ?am t-erkud-u/??t-erkud
he or you.MASC PROG 2.MASC-run-PL//2.MASC-run
‘He or you are running.’

4.2.2 VS order

Pattern: You get closest conjunct agreement.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	2sg		2sg
3	?1pl/3sg	3sg	

Examples:

- (16) a. ?am n-erkud ?ana ?aw ?nta
PROG 1PL-run I or you.MASC
‘I or you are running.’
- b. ?am t-erkud ?nta ?aw ?ana
PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC or I
‘You or I are running.’

- c. ʕam n-erkud ʔana ʔaw huwe
 PROG 1PL-run I or he
 'I or he are running.'
- d. ʕam ʔn-erkud/y-erkud huwe ʔaw ʔana
 PROG 1PL-run/3.MASC-run he or I
 'He or I are running.'
- e. ʕam t-erkud ʔnta ʔaw huwe
 PROG 2.MASC-run you.MASC or he
 'You or he are running.'
- f. ʕam y-erkud huwe ʔaw ʔnta
 PROG 3.MASC-run he or you.MASC
 'He or you are running.'